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Frontpage for the "Third Man"

The defected Soviet spy, Runge, also blabbed about Austria -- Did a diplomat bribe a municipal official?

by our correspondent, Marlene Manthey

Washington. Usually reliable sources indicate that the uncovered espionage activities which had been going on for some time and are now being publicized in Bonn, also had some connection with Austria. It appears that the defected Soviet spy master Runge, who has been making his statements to U.S. Counterintelligence for two weeks, brought with him more information than that concerning the espionage rings operating in the Federal Republic.

Accordingly, it is not at all likely, as was claimed in connection with the Sutterlin and Pieschel affair, that Soviet espionage activity has shifted in recent years from Vienna to Bonn. This was hinted at by an obviously inspired article by Sulzberger in the New York Times of September 13, which referred to connections with Vienna with respect to an espionage case uncovered in South Africa.

The Soviet Embassy in Vienna is actually staffed far in excess of the requirements which arise from the size and international significance of Austria. It has about 150 members, compared with the almost 100 members of the American Embassy, which indicates that the world powers want to keep abreast of each other, to a certain extent, in this area.

In this connection, there is a report about a member of the Soviet Embassy in Vienna, one M.A.S. Anasov, who was allegedly caught red-handed last year but is still operating in Vienna, because the Ministry of the Interior is supposed to have received an order from Ballhaus Square [seat of Government] to file the matter away in the records. According to this report which has not yet been checked here, Anasov allegedly recruited a member of the Vienna Municipal Administration who concerned himself with issuing residence certificates (Heimatsscheine) and similar documents. The latter began to have scruples and informed his superiors; thereupon, Anasov was arrested at a meeting. However, since Anasov was able to show his diplomatic passport, he was immediately released. As already mentioned, the Austrian Government took no measures, which is attributed to the well-known practices of the [Swiss] Confederation and the previously somewhat more self-confident behavior of Austria.

N.G. Kedrov, Soviet Embassy Counselor in Vienna, had already been mentioned in the Sulzberger article published two months earlier. It was asserted that he, like Anasov, worked for the KGB, the Russian civilian intelligence service, and specialized in "illegal persons." These are intelligence agents, who become "naturalized" over the years; in other words, they receive another nationality, in order to be able to operate more easily. Agents who had already been compromised received a "new personality" in this way. Consequently, it is believed here that the activities of M.A.S. Anasov in connection with the Vienna municipal official, must be viewed in this light.

The subject report in the New York Times stated that Soviet spy Longinov, discovered in South Africa, declared that his contact man, Kedrov, was in Austria. Western experts even assume that Embassy Counselor Kedrov could be identical with Soviet agent Pavlov, who played a leading role in a famous espionage case in Canada almost 20 years ago. Longinov is also supposed to have supplied the information, which has been checked by Western intelligence services with the greatest of interest, that Kedrov, alias Pavlov, trained spies in the Soviet Union, after he became unusable for several years because of the Canadian affair.